**1. What are the goals and objectives of your project?**

***Goals and Objectives:***

1. Help all families establish home environments to support children in literacy development.

* Demonstrate to parents how to establish literacy-rich environments within their households by modeling such environments based on different age levels.
* Demonstrate to parents the importance of reading aloud to their children and providing opportunities for interactions (i.e., questioning, discussions, predictions, etc…) that assist students in becoming good readers.
* Using an interactive, multisensory approach, introduce families to different literacy strategies that utilize a variety of student learning styles (i.e., tactile/kinesthetic, visual, auditory), as a means to improve their understanding and ability to foster literacy at home based on their child’s individual needs.
* Equip parents with literacy developmental tools (i.e., Curiosity Kits, Book Bags) to bolster child’s literacy development within the home learning environment.

1. Forge a stronger home-school partnership by acknowledging each partner’s contribution to student literacy achievement.

* Recognize the challenges presented to parents and caregivers attempting to foster their child’s literacy development in the home environment.
* Recognize and reinforce the importance of parents as educators and of homes as learning environments by encouraging parents to support, nurture, and assist students at home by providing them with information and ideas related to homework and other curriculum-related activities, decision, and planning. Additionally, encourage parents to incorporate and share their cultures and teachings with children and school community. As well as demonstrate the uses of reading, writing, language, and numeracy in accomplishing day-to-day tasks into home-school environments.
* Recognize the importance of the school as offering support, guidance, and resources (e.g., Curiosity Kits, Book Bags) to assist families with literacy development at home by publicizing the school’s Learning Commons (i.e., school library), as a resource center for all to take advantage of.

1. Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen family practices relating to student’s literacy learning and development.

* Recognize and encourage parents to utilize the numerous services (e.g., reading pals, drop-in programs, book clubs, research tools, etc…) and resources (e.g., e-books, on-line learning, etc…) their local libraries offer by having staff from our local public library set up an information booth with an interactive literacy activity.
* Recognize and encourage parents to seek out avenues to promote real-life literacy applications as a means to enhance their child’s literacy development (e.g., The Thunder Bay Health Unit. Having staff set up an information booth and interactive activity to demonstrate nutritional literacy: reading food labels and how it is applicable to a families’ health.).

1. Develop and make available literacy resources and activities that parents can use at home to promote and foster literacy development.

* Create Literacy Kits in the form of Curiosity Kits[[1]](#footnote--1) and Book Bags[[2]](#footnote-0) as a way to provide parents with the means to foster literacy development at home. Each Literacy Kit will be available via parental sign out and come in a variety of themes, forms, and genres, that can be viewed (e.g., e-books), heard (e.g., audio recordings such as podcasts, CDs), or read (e.g., books, magazines, newspapers) anywhere, anytime.
* Create take-home resource booklets encompassing all activities and resources highlighted at Literacy Fair, including titles of stories read aloud, multisensory literacy activities and strategies used, as well as, strategies to establish literacy-rich environments at home.
* Make sure that all information for parent‘s usage is clear, usable, and linked to children's success in school.

**2. Why is this project important? Who will benefit from this project and how?**

With the ever-changing family structures within our society, more and more children are being raised in lone-parent households. According to the Statistics Canada 2006 Census figures, 18% of all families living in Thunder Bay are lone-parent families. Of these families, 82%[[3]](#footnote-1) are female-led. Due to a lack of affordable childcare, these families usually rely on Ontario Works and thus live in the realm of poverty. Within the St. Bernard student population, \_% of all students, live in a lone-parent family, \_ of which are female-led households. For these families, the creation of a literacy-rich learning environment for their children at home is unattainable, either due to a lack of know-how due to low literacy skills and inadequate education and/or the financial capabilities to foster such an environment.

The Literacy Fair will benefit all families within the St. Bernard school community but most importantly, will these families with the knowledge, confidence, and resources to foster literacy-rich environments within their homes. By encouraging parents to use their strengths, talents, and cultural backgrounds, we hope to overcome any barriers parents might have with regards to supporting literacy development at home.

**3.What are the regional and/or provincial implications of your project?**

(NEED HELP HERE!)

**4. How does your project relate to one of the three project categories?**

This project relates to the Skill-Building Opportunities for Parents project category. Using modeling, parents will witness first-hand how to incorporate “good” read aloud techniques to foster literacy development with their children. Read alouds will be based on a variety of genres and forms, as to enable parents to cater their own literacy times towards their and their child’s interests. Additionally, families will engage in interactive, multisensory activities, linked to each read aloud section to provide parents with activities they can use at home during their literacy sessions. This multisensory approach, will demonstrate to parents that each child’s learning style is different, and as such, appropriate activities need to be selected in order to foster success in literacy. Lastly, Literacy Kits will be made available to parents, utilizing techniques and literacy strategies used during this event, as to provide parents with reinforcement of the skills learnt as well as confidence in assisting their child’s literacy development.

**5. How are you going to meet your goals and objectives? Please describe what you will do, when you will do it, who will do it, and what results you expect. If you are planning an event, please provide a draft agenda as an appendix.**

**6. How will you know if you meet your goal? Please describe how you will evaluate the success of your project.**

**7. Who has worked with you to identify the need for this project and write the proposal?**

Teachers (Special Education), Teacher-Librarian, school secretaries, parents council members, parents.

1. Lewis, Maureen et al. "Curiosity Kits: The Impact of Non-Fiction Book Bags on Boy’s Reading at Home." TTRB, 07/08/2008. Web. 6

   Jun2010.<http://www.ttrb.ac.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?Keyword=book+bags&SearchOption=And&SearchType=Keyword&Refin

   eExpand=1&ContentId=15088>. [↑](#footnote-ref--1)
2. Zeece, Pauline Davey, and Betty Morgan Wallace. "Books and Good Stuff: A Strategy for Building School to Home Literacy Connections."

   *Early Childhood Education Journal*. 37. (2009): 35-47. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
3. Brotchie, Karli. *Poverty in Thunder Bay: A Statistical Reference, Phase 2*. Thunder Bay: Thunder Bay economic Justice Committee, 2006.

   12. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)